

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A network device managing apparatus comprising:

a storage unit adapted to associate with each other, and to store, a device list indicating network devices located in a search with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus which requested that search;

a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request for a new search of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching unit adapted to perform a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by said receiving unit;

an obtaining unit adapted to ~~obtain a past device list associated with the identification information of the data processing apparatus received by said receiving unit, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search by said searching unit~~ obtain from said storage unit the stored device list (if any) associated with the identification information received by said receiving unit, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed by said searching unit;

a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result provided by said

searching unit with the ~~[[past]]~~ device list obtained by said obtaining unit;

a forming unit adapted to specify ~~from among the~~ any network devices located in the new search~~[[ed]]~~ by said searching unit ~~the network device~~ but not present~~[[ed]]~~ in the ~~[[past]]~~ device list obtained by said obtaining unit, and to form~~[[ing]]~~ a new device list in which ~~the~~ such specified network devices are ~~has been~~ emphasized; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the new device list formed by said forming unit to said data processing apparatus.

Claim 2. (currently amended): A network device managing apparatus ~~which, comprises~~ comprising:

a storage unit adapted to associate with each other, and to store, a device list indicating network devices located in a search with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus which requested that search;

a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request for a new search of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching unit adapted to perform a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by said receiving unit;

an obtaining unit adapted to ~~obtain a past device list associated with the~~ identification information of the data processing apparatus received by said receiving unit, the ~~past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search by said~~ searching unit obtain from said storage unit the stored device list (if any) associated with the

identification information received by said receiving unit, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed by said searching unit;

a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result provided by said searching unit with the ~~[[past]]~~ device list obtained by said obtaining unit;

a forming unit adapted to specify ~~from among the~~ any network devices located in the new search~~[[ed]]~~ by said searching unit ~~the network device~~ of which the state has been changed, and to form~~[[ing]]~~ a new device list in which ~~the~~ such specified network devices are ~~has been~~ emphasized; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the new device list formed by said forming unit to said data processing apparatus.

Claim 3. (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the device list formed by said forming unit indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

Claim 4. (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by said forming unit includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 5. (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by said forming unit includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

Claim 6. (currently amended): A method comprising:

a storage step of associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit, a device list indicating network devices located in a search with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus which requested that search;

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search ~~[[ing]]~~ for network devices in response to the search request received by said receiving unit;

an obtaining step of ~~obtaining a past device list associated with the identification information of the data processing apparatus received in said receiving step, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said searching step~~ obtaining from the storage unit the stored device list (if any) associated with the identification information received in said receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in said searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the ~~[[past]]~~ device list obtained in said obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying ~~from among the~~ any network devices located in the new search ~~[[ed by]]~~ said searching step ~~the network device but~~ not present ~~[[ed]]~~ in the ~~[[past]]~~ device list obtained in said obtaining step, and forming a new device list in which ~~the~~ such specified network devices are ~~has been~~ emphasized; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in said forming

step to ~~said~~ the data processing apparatus.

Claim 7. (original): A method according to claim 6, wherein the data formed in said data forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 8. (previously presented): A method according to claim 6, wherein the device list formed in said forming step includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

Claim 9. (currently amended): A method comprising:

a storage step of associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit, a device list indicating network devices located in a search with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus which requested that search;

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search[[ing]] for network devices in response to the search request received by said receiving unit;

an obtaining step of ~~obtaining a past device list associated with the~~ identification information of the data processing apparatus received in said receiving step, the ~~past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said~~ searching step obtaining from the storage unit the stored device list (if any) associated with the

identification information received in said receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in said searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the [[past]] device list obtained in said obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying ~~from among the~~ any network devices located in the new search[[ed by]] said searching step ~~the network device~~ of which the state has been changed, and forming a new device list in which ~~the~~ such specified network devices are ~~has been~~ emphasized; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in said forming step to ~~said~~ the data processing apparatus.

Claim 10. (previously presented): A method according to claim 9, wherein the device list formed in said forming step indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

Claim 11. (previously presented): A method according to claim 9, wherein the device list formed in said forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 12. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium storing a program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

a storage step of associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit, a device list indicating network devices located in a search with identification information that

identifies a data processing apparatus which requested that search;

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search ~~[[ing]]~~ for network devices in response to the search request received by said receiving unit;

an obtaining step of ~~obtaining a past device list associated with the identification information of the data processing apparatus received in said receiving step, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said searching step~~ obtaining from the storage unit the stored device list (if any) associated with the identification information received in said receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in said searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the ~~[[past]]~~ device list obtained in said obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying ~~from among the~~ any network devices located in the new search ~~[[ed by]]~~ said searching step ~~the network device~~ but not present ~~[[ed]]~~ in the ~~[[past]]~~ device list obtained in said obtaining step, and forming a new device list in which ~~the~~ such specified network devices are ~~has been~~ emphasized; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in said forming step to ~~said~~ the data processing apparatus.

Claim 13. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium storing a
program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

a storage step of associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit, a
device list indicating network devices located in a search with identification information that
identifies a data processing apparatus which requested that search;

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network
devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request
from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search ~~search~~ for network devices in
response to the search request received by said receiving unit;

an obtaining step of ~~obtaining a past device list associated with the~~
~~identification information of the data processing apparatus received in said receiving step, the~~
~~past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said~~
~~searching step~~ obtaining from the storage unit the stored device list (if any) associated with the
identification information received in said receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a
search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in said searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the
~~[[past]]~~ device list obtained in said obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying ~~from among the~~ any network devices located in
the new search ~~[[ed by]]~~ said searching step ~~the network device~~ of which the state has been
changed, and forming a new device list in which ~~the~~ such specified network devices are ~~has been~~
emphasized; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in said forming step to ~~said~~ the data processing apparatus.

Claim 14. (canceled).

Claim 15. (previously presented): A network device managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.

Claim 16. (canceled).

Claim 17. (previously presented): A network device managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.